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U. S. Department of Agriculture

INFORMATION AND TABULATIONS DESIRED FROM 1936 PROJECT

"A Study of Farm Organization and Soil Management Practices, \*\*\*"

U.S. ✓  
conducted cooperatively by  
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Bureau of Agricultural Economics,  
Soil Conservation Service, and State Experiment Stations.

Considerable variability among the studies being conducted in the various States makes it inadvisable to attempt to supply the States with a uniform tabular sheet or form from the Washington office for reporting the tabulations, such as was prepared in the 1935 Regional Research Project. It does seem advisable, however, to indicate in some detail the information desired by the Department of Agriculture from these studies and to offer certain general suggestions as to procedure in tabulating so that a reasonable degree of uniformity in the reports will be obtained.

The studies under way in the various States may be divided roughly into (a) Studies of conservation practices; (b) Studies of adjustments in farm organization needed to effect conservation (studies in which Farm Management and Soil Conservation men obtain information on the same farms); and (c) Combinations of (a) and (b). Among the first class are included, in addition to strictly practice studies such as terracing, liming, etc., studies in some of the Western States, for example, relating to certain special problems such as effect of various percentage adjustments of cattle numbers upon the income and expenses of typical ranches with the view of arriving at reasonable rates of payment per head or per acre for such adjustments. In other States there are tenure and other special problem studies under way. In all studies of this type the particular form the tabulations take will be governed, of course, by the specific objectives of the different studies and should be determined pretty largely by the State men in charge or in consultation with Washington representatives.

Specific Information Desired from Studies of Practices and from the Practice Phase of the Adjustment Studies

There should be sent in to Washington for each practice studied: data showing number of farms covered, acres on which the practice is followed, acres on which the particular practice is needed, and a summary of all detailed data with respect to methods, cost, and other factors obtained in each of the practice schedules used. It is suggested that this information be transcribed to a listing sheet (in such groupings as will differentiate major variations in methods, costs, etc.) from the individual schedules and a copy of this sheet together with such summary tables as are necessary to portray the results should be submitted. This will be needed in Washington in order to appraise the results and recommendations made by the State people with respect to reasonable payments for such practices.

If these data and recommendations relating to the various practice studies are to be of use as a basis for developing the 1937 conservation programs, it is essential that they be sent to Washington not later than October 1, 1936.



Specific Information Desired from Studies Relating to Adjustments in Organization Needed to Effect Conservation

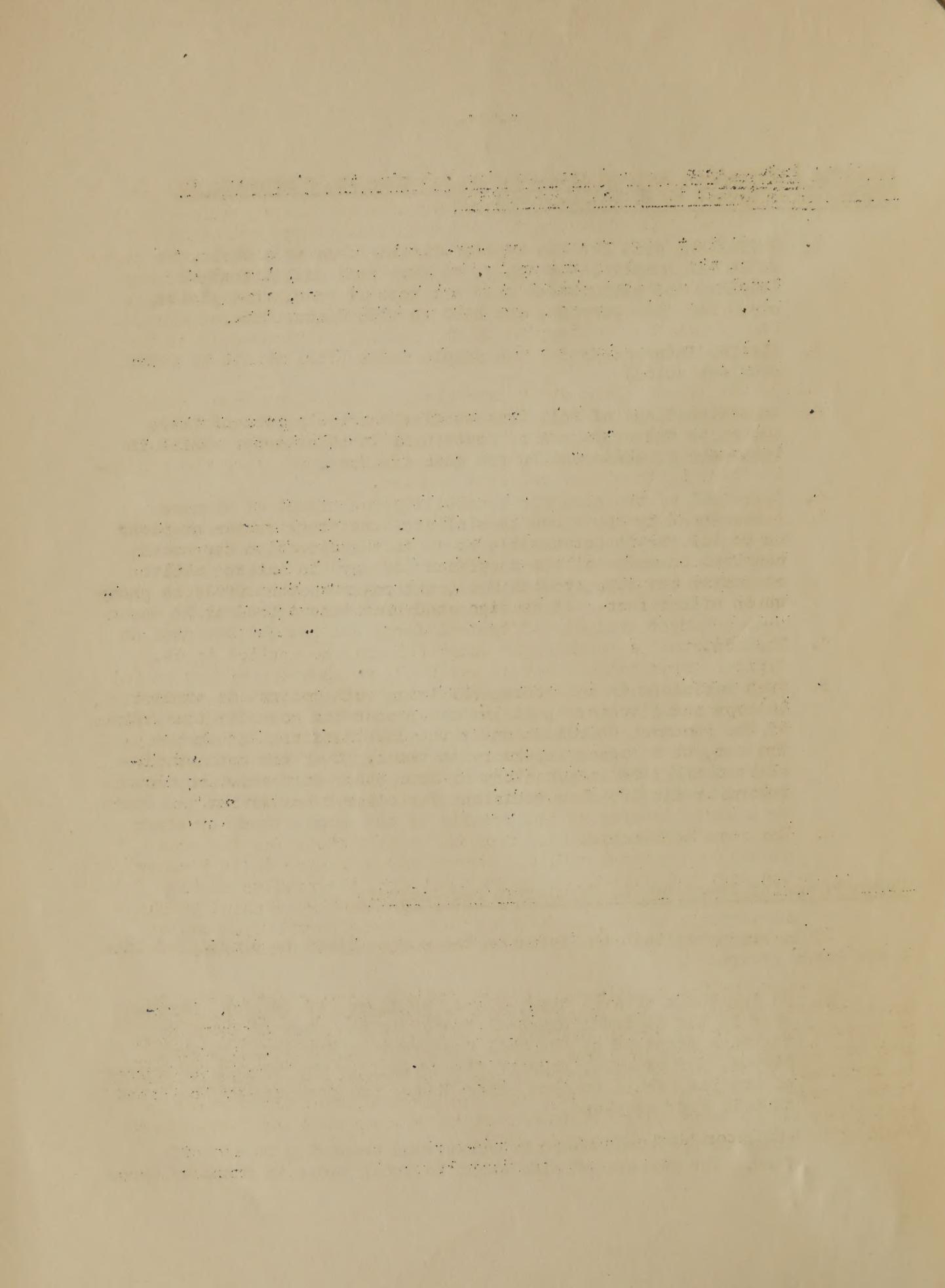
1. Sufficient data for the type-of-farming area as a whole, to which the sample farms apply, to show land use, livestock (numbers and production) size and type of farm, crop yields, etc. For this purpose, use 1930 or 1935 Census data.
2. Similar information for the sample farms (This should be taken from schedules)
3. Recommendations of Soil Conservation Service representatives and soils and crops men of Station as to adjustments needed in interests of conservation and good land use.
4. Appraisal of the economic feasibility and effect of changes recommended by the above specialists, and final recommendations as to how far it is feasible to go in the direction suggested, and some estimate of the sacrifice (if any) in income involved in making the suggested changes, and payments that would be needed to effect same. It is suggested that this appraisal be based upon a budget analysis of typical farms and not for the area as a whole.
5. Such revisions in the recommendations, with respect to changes in crop and livestock patterns and production made for the area by the Research Committee under the 1935 Regional Adjustment Project, that appear necessary in the light of the data obtained from the 1936 sample study or from other data which may have become available; also revisions for other areas or for the State as a whole insofar as the results of the sample study or other data are applicable.

Suggestions for Procedure in Tabulation and Analysis

It is suggested that the farms in the sample first be classified into a few large groups:

1. On the basis of soil type, slope, or degree of erosion, whichever is the dominant physical factor in the area as shown on the maps prepared by the Soil Conservation Service. In some States, for example, four or five groupings may be made on degree of erosion, while in some other States the grouping may be based on soil type or slope.

These groups then should be sub-sorted according to size of farm. The measure of size might be total acres in farms or acres



of crop land, whichever is more significant. The farm records then should be arrayed on some significant factor, such as the ratio of soil depleting to soil conserving crops, the ratio of farm land to crop land, or the percent of crop land in some major crop such as corn, cotton, or wheat. And all the basic organization and production data with respect to crops and livestock should be tabulated and the necessary percentage computations made essential to stepping up the results of the sample to the larger area.

2. On the basis of the array presented, select an average, modal, or median size and organization of farm, or in lieu of this, select an actual farm which best typifies the group. This will be used for making the budget analysis for appraising the economic feasibility of the proposed changes.
3. After the farms have been sorted as to major groups as proposed under (1), representatives of the Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with soils and agronomy men at the college will recommend cropping systems and practices for each different group which will effect conservation and promote good land use.
4. The adjustments recommended under (3) will be applied to the typical organizations set up under (2) to show the effect on (a) crop acreage and production, (b) livestock numbers and production, (c) operating expenses and income to test the economic feasibility of the recommendations and to give some indication of what payments would be necessary to induce same. Whatever recommendations finally are adopted should be applied to the entire area to determine the effect upon crop and livestock production.
5. The results thus obtained from the sample study for the area should be compared with the recommendations made in 1935 under the Regional Adjustment Project and with the results of the County Planning Project, and final agreement reached as to the adjustments needed in the area to maintain fertility, control erosion, and promote efficient farm management practices.

Inasmuch as the results and recommendations growing out of the farm organization studies relate primarily to the modification of recommendations previously made for the areas studied, as reported in the Regional Adjustment and County Planning projects, it is not so essential that the results be forwarded to Washington as early as the data relating to practice studies. It was agreed generally, at the regional conferences, that the results on this phase of the cooperative studies were to be completed and forwarded to Washington not later than January 1, 1937.



It would be quite helpful, however, to the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in planning the 1937 program if the project leaders would send in with their first report on practices any suggestions they may have with respect to whether the percentage shifts from soil conserving to soil depleting crops allowed under the present program are sufficiently flexible; whether the present classification of crops is satisfactory; what practices not now approved, or what changes in practices now approved are needed; or any other suggestions they may have for improving the present program.

